

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 13, and the references cited therein have been carefully considered.

In this amendment, the specification have been amended to correct noted informalities and the claims have been amended to correct certain informalities, to delete the reference numbers and, in certain cases to clarify the claim language, without changing the scope of the claims.

The rejection of all of the claims, i.e., claims 1-6, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to BLuemel in view of the patent to Amano has been noted and is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested for the reasons set forth below.

In urging this ground of rejection, the Examiner has taken that the Bluemel patent shows a power supply circuit for a motor vehicle electric system containing all of the limitations of claim 1 other than the claimed starter-generator; that the Adamo patent teaches that it is known to use a starter-generator in a similar type power system; and that consequently, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to use a starter-generator in the system of Bluemel and arrive at applicants' claimed invention as defined in claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon. It is submitted however, that even if the indicated combination were made, the resulting system would not meet the limitations of claim 1, and thus claims 2-6 as well.

Claim 1 specifically recites that each of the two connection branches, a first of which contains a DC/DC converter, between the starter generator and the vehicle electric system is provided with a respective switch on the side of the path connected to the starter generator that connects or disconnects the respective branch to the starter generator. As a result, each of the connection branches can be independently connected to or disconnected from the starter generator. Moreover, the battery is connected to the second connection branch on the vehicle electric side, i.e., between the switch and the vehicle electric system, between the second connection branch and ground. Finally, the energy accumulator is connected between ground and the first connection branch at a point of the first connection between the switch and the DC/DC. As a result of this arrangement, both the battery

and the energy accumulator can independently be connected and disconnected from the starter generator, as a result of which the various control conditions described and claimed may be easily carried out. This arrangement is not found in the Bluemel patent, regardless of how the Examiner attempts to read the circuit elements of the Bluemel patent, particularly with regard to the claimed switches and their relationship to the various branches and the battery and accumulator in the claimed circuit.


In rejecting the claims, the Examiner has taken the position that, with regard to the Bluemel patent, the claimed first connection branch is the branch Z1, the second branch is the branch Z2, the claimed battery is the battery B1, the energy accumulator is the battery B2, and the claimed switches are the switches in the switches in the DC/DC converters W1 and W2, or possibly the switch LS. Although it is submitted that the claimed switches cannot be read on the switches of the DC/DC converters of Bluemel since both the switches and the DC/DC converter are recited in the claim 1 and are even connected to one another, even if the Examiner's position is accepted, the circuit recited in claim 1 does not result. Note that in the circuit of Bluemel, the accumulator B2 can never be disconnected to the starter generator G and S since it is directly connected to G and S. Thus, regardless of whether the Examiner considers the claimed switch in the second branch to be the switches in the DC/DC converter W2 or the switch LC (shown but not labeled) it still would not be between the battery B2 and G and S as required by claim 1, and consequently could never disconnect the battery B2 from G and S. Accordingly for this reason alone, it is submitted that claim 1, and consequently claims 2-6 dependent thereon, are allowable over the combination of the Bluemel and Amano references under 35 USC 103(a).

For the above-stated reasons, it is submitted that all of the pending claims, i.e. claim 1-6, are allowable over the references and rejections of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this application to issue therefore are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, then the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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